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Alan Parker / Jo Dipple

Grand Sunday
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many of the opportunities we take for granted. Agricultural protectionism today means that developing countries capture only a third of world agricultural trade, even though 80% of the world's population lives in the developing world.

Progressive trade unionists know that it can not be morally right for this to continue, which is why since 1997 Unions have been at the forefront of calls to make progress on international development. The Make Poverty History Coalition, and before that Jubilee 2000, are the lasting symbols of a popular campaign for more aid, debt reduction and free trade and thanks to the work of unions – and churches, faith groups and NGO's – remarkable progress has been made on international development.

So let nobody claim that our push for free trade represents a rejection of our morals and values. In my view, nothing could be further from the truth. A failure to look outward, to turn to protectionism in the face of the iniquity of today's protectionism would not only be a denial of the morals that have shaped our history it would also:

- be a rejection of our industrial heritage;
- a denial of the British spirit of free trade,
- a retreat from our political commitment to global social justice and the ideals of Bevin and Hardie;
- and it would drive a wedge through the progressive consensus shared by the majority of British people.

Rationally and industrially right too

But just as I believe that an outward and open approach is the morally right way to respond to globalization, I also believe that it is in the economic interest of this country too: with a responsible approach, Britain can benefit from globalization.